

Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-11 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20

STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 FEA-02

OMB-01 DRC-01 /192 W

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R 081850Z MAR 74

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6553

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: GATT,EC

SUBJ: HUNGARIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE GATT JOINT

TARIFF STUDY

1. ON MARCH 8 RODERICK ABBOTT, EC COMMISSION
DAVISION CHIEF FOR GATT AFFAIRS, MENTIONED THAT THE
COMMISSION HAS HEARD FROM GENEVA THAT THE HUNGARIANS
MIGHT LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GATT TARIFF STUDY.

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AS ABBOTT UNDERSTANDS IT, THE HUNGARIANS HAVE

OFFERED TO PROVIDE TRADE STATISTICS BUT ONLY FOR THEIR TRADE WITH THE GATT MEMBERS (I.E., OMITTING THEIR TRADE WITH OTHER EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES).

2. THE COMMISSION IS WORRIED THAT THIS HUNGARIAN REQUEST MIGHT IMPLY THAT HUNGARIANS TARIFFS SERVE THE SAME FUNCTION AS DO TARIFFS IN MARKET ECONOMIES. ONCE THE HUNGARIANS HAD GOTTEN THAT PRINCIPLE ACCEPTED THEY COULD THEN ATTEMPT TO NEGOTIATE IN THE MTN PURELY ON THE BASIS OF TARIFFS.

3. THE COMMISSION IS CONSIDERING TWO ALTERNATIVES SHOULD THE HUNGARIANS PROPOSE PARTICIPATING IN THE TARIFF STUDY. THE FIRST ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE MERELY TO TELL THE HUNGARIANS "NO" -- PERHAPS GILDING THE "NO" BY AN EXPLANATION THAT THERE IS NO CURRENT INTENTION TO ENLARGE THE SCOPE OF THE GATT TARIFF STUDY. THE SECOND ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE TO ALLOW THE HUNGARIANS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GATT TARIFF STUDY BUT MAKE CLEAR TO THEM THAT THIS HAS NO IMPLICATION SO FAR AS THE COMING NEGOTIATIONS ARE CONCERNED.

4. ABBOTT EXPECTS THE COMMUNITY TO PURSUE THE FIRST ALTERNATIVE. HE SAID HE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN ANY US REACTION AND HOPED TO TALK TO THE AMERICAN DELEGATION PRIVATELY IN GENEVA NEXT WEEK BEFORE THE HUNGARIANS RAISED THE ISSUE. GREENWALD

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30 JUN 2005

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